

**SECRET**

OLC 70-0213

19 March 1970

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD**

**SUBJECT: Meeting with Assistant Secretary of Defense (Administration)  
Robert F. Froehke Regarding Congressional Staff  
Security Clearances**

1. Today Mr. Howard Osborn and I met with Mr. Froehke and Mr. William Hunt, of DOD, on the above matter. Mr. Osborn first explained existing procedures, noting that the Agency was prepared to assume responsibility as office of record for the community with regard to compartmented clearances for congressional staff personnel. He made clear that we were not in a position to provide the same service regarding secret and top secret clearances. Mr. Froehke thought this entirely satisfactory and agreed with Mr. Osborn that details should be worked out in the USIB Security Committee.

2. I commented that so far as the Agency was concerned we were adhering to a policy of limiting compartmented clearances to staff members of congressional committees only, not staff employees of individual senators and congressmen. Messrs. Froehke and Hunt thought this highly desirable but Hunt pointed out that DOD procedures in this regard were rather loose and might not be easy to tighten up.

3. Mr. Froehke asked about the possibility of the Director raising the general problem of congressional staff clearances with Mr. Harlow or someone in the White House. I said I did not know the Director's plans in this regard but I would raise the matter when we reported to the Director on our conversation. I asked Froehke what he thought could most usefully be done. He said Secretary Laird felt that it would be useful if someone did draw the White House's attention to the problem and that Mr. Helms was in the best position to do so. Froehke said he was sure Secretary Laird would support anything the Director thought useful in this regard.

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